

SUBURBAN LAWNS, AND SOME IN TOWN

The Lawn Beautiful and How to Make It—Some Questions Answered.

TALK BY A DEMONSTRATOR

Preparation of Soil, Planting Grass, Care of Lawn and the Results.

J. C. Hunter, the farmers' demonstration agent for Henrico County, writes the Industrial Editor as follows:

As there are many lawns in and around Richmond being prepared to be sown this season, I will be thankful to you for just a little space in the Industrial section for a short letter on this subject. This will apply to the present time and season.

In making a lawn there are several fundamental principles to be considered. Around Richmond there are many varieties and conditions of soil, and although, strictly speaking, each should be treated according to its needs, with a few exceptions, one general plan may suffice.

If the land is inclined to be wet in any part or has a subsoil that is impervious to water, or a hard pan, it must be remedied by drainage and subsoiling. These conditions are rare, however.

The greatest danger in this soil and climate is an inadequate supply of water during periods of drought. The roots of lawn grass are comparatively close to the surface, not penetrating more than a few inches into the soil, except where excellent soil conditions exist. The greater the depth of prepared surface soil the deeper will the roots penetrate and consequently the greater the amount of soil fluid directly available. As most of the lawns are comparatively high and dry places, this problem becomes still more difficult.

Organic matter is the great promoter to form an arable soil in that it makes soil out of what would otherwise be sand. Its presence in the soil is greatly desired, because in the changes that take place during its decay the water-holding power of the soil is very much increased.

It is, however, in the lawn that it is most difficult to introduce organic matter into the soil, and it becomes imperative that the lawn be made as rich in that important soil ingredient as possible before planting. I. e., when the lawn soil is first prepared. Later, when the lawn is established, organic matter can only be introduced into the soil in the soluble material leached from the manure from the surface applications, and the beneficial effects in loosening soils produced by the decay of the insoluble materials of the manure are, therefore, entirely absent.

The introduction of good organic manures, lime and other elements are the most potent factors in promoting good soil conditions. Rapidly decomposed organic matter in the soil causes greater bacterial activity and greater oxidation, and the supply of plant food generally. It is more important than any added fertilizer, and cannot be compensated for by the addition of any amount or kind of chemical plant food. Limestone has been found to be very beneficial, acting upon inert elements in the soil and converting them into available plant food, also aiding the destruction of harmful bodies, both by combining with them and also by oxidizing them to others less harmful, or even beneficial compounds.

Drainage Doubly Essential.
Drainage also acts materially in two ways: first, it allows a free access of air with deeper penetration of healthy roots, which promotes oxidation; second, it will be beneficial by actual removal of harmful material in the drainage waters.

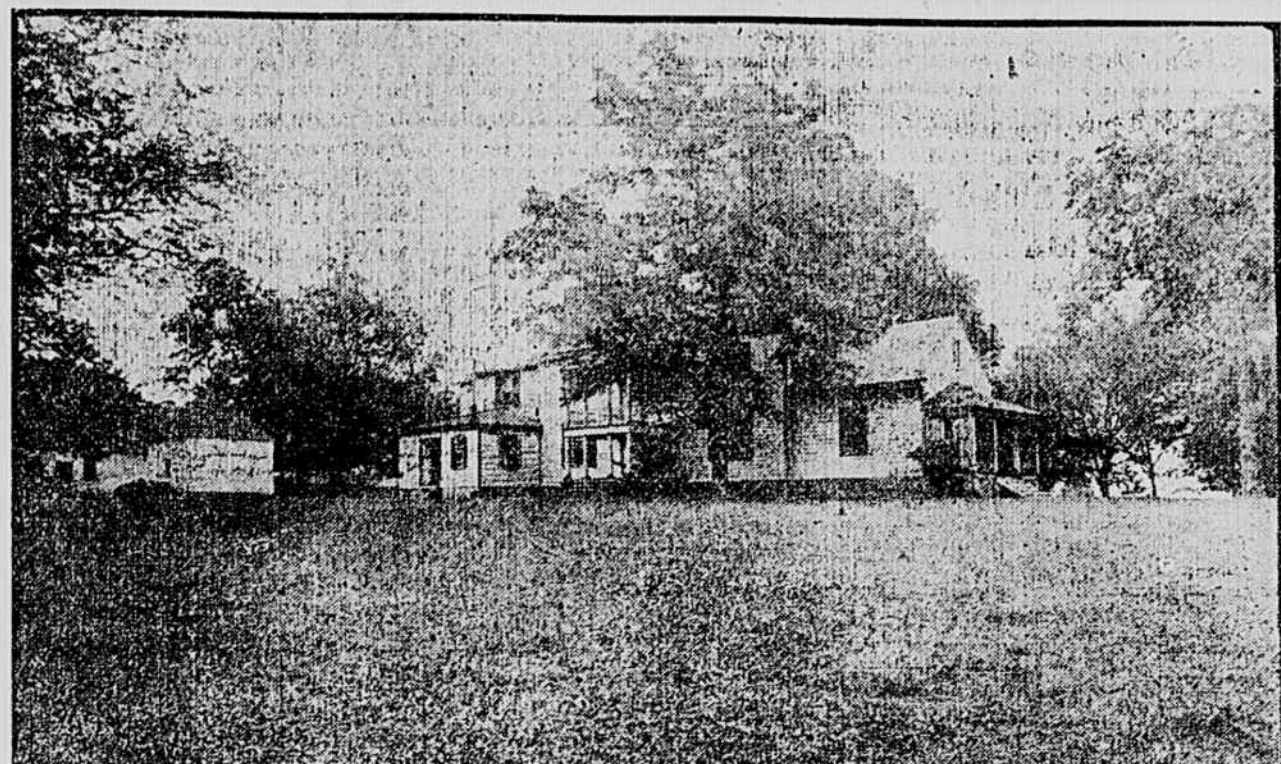
Cowpans are very suitable for this type of soil improvement when plowed under in making the soil more retentive of moisture, better able to hold fertilizer applied to it and less liable to be washed away.

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GREAT FARMS ON THE PAMUNKEY



REAR VIEW OF MARLBORNE ON THE PAMUNKEY.

to allow the grass upon the surface to be killed at a time of drought. If well rotted manure is available, a dressing of twenty or more two-horse loads to the acre will add valuable plant food, as well as increase the store of humus.

All grading should be done, of course, while the land is in the rough and before any improvement has been made. If the subsoil has been exposed in places should be covered by a few inches of good surface soil.

Lime and Other Helps.
If the land has not been limed recently, three tons of ground limestone, with 500 pounds of rawbone, and the same amount of 16 per cent acid phosphate, and 100 pounds of muriate of potash, thoroughly disked into the surface soil. This should be done some two or three weeks before the seed is sown, and the ground left to let the last crop of summer grass and weeds appear. Then about the end of August a light plowing or thorough disked will destroy all weeds and grass and leave the ground perfectly clean. The surface should then be put in fine, smooth and level condition for the reception of the seed.

The formula I should advise for this soil per acre is 100 pounds white clover, twenty-five pounds herbs grass (red top) and twenty-five pounds Kentucky blue grass. Better buy the seed in this proportion and mix, than to buy the mixed lawn grasses. The seed should be analyzed for adulteration of weed seeds and tested for germinating power before being sown. A sample of each mixture, mailed to the writer, will be forwarded to the Department of Agriculture, Washington. About ten days should be allowed for return of the results.

It is very necessary to have the seed sown evenly over the surface. This cannot be done well by going over the ground one way. One-half the seed should be sown one way and the other half across. It is well to have some one with experience to do this; otherwise the seeding may be uneven. The surface should be gone over very lightly and carefully with a smoothing harrow both ways, then rolled.

Where the sod on a lawn has become thin and weedy, or suffers much during the dry spells, or moss-covered in the spaces, or small factory in any way, it should be reseeded, plowed as soon as possible and treated as above.

The plowing under of the sod will be a help in forming a reservoir for retaining moisture during periods of drought; the ground limestone will sweeten the ground and disperse with the moss covering, and the fertilizer will supply enough plant food for the new seedling.

The writer will be glad to advise any one wishing information on this or other agricultural or horticultural subjects if they will address his office, 307 East Franklin Street, Richmond.

NEW INDUSTRIES ALL OVER VIRGINIA

Candidates and Good Roads.
New Shoe Factory for Fredericksburg—Staunton's Latest.

The Culpeper Silk Mills, capital stock \$50,000, has been incorporated with the following officers: president, James H. Hays, Jr.; of Patterson, N. J., vice-president, Charles Forbes, secretary, L. F. Smith, both of Culpeper.

The Newport News Times-Herald says: "The Newport News is a big port, has a growing trade and cannot be kept down, even though the Federal government has seen fit to consolidate it with Norfolk, with that port as the headquarters. The big foreign business of the Newport News has been handled through Newport News and will continue to be handled through Newport News."

The Harrisonburg News-Record says: "The three of the candidates for the Democratic nomination for the House of Delegates from Rockingham County favor good roads. That goes without saying. No one of them would do or say anything to retard the progress of the era of building better highways, and of reducing the heaviest and most exacting of all taxes the farmer pays—the mud tax."

The Roanoke Wrecking and Salvage Co., capital stock \$50,000, has been incorporated with E. Niehoff, president; S. K. Thomas, secretary-treasurer.

The Wilson Automatic Tray Co., capital stock \$50,000, has been incorporated at Remington Gap with L. J. Wilson, president; A. C. Hyatt, vice-president; R. E. L. Chumbley, secretary.

The Fredericksburg Shoe Company, which was recently incorporated with \$25,000 capital stock, has awarded a contract for the erection of a big shoe factory, and will get busy making shoes within the year.

The Fowler Track Sanding Company, whatever that may be, has been incorporated to do business in Roanoke. The capital stock is \$10,000.

Staunton's newest industry is a hub factory, the Resilient Hub Corporation having been incorporated with capital stock of \$50,000. The officers are G. W. Dudley, president; C. L. Wilson, vice-president, both of Staunton; E. D.



MARLBORNE AND NEW CASTLE LOWGROUNDS.

Sizer, secretary-treasurer, Rhoadesville, and T. S. Zirkle, general manager, Crozet.

The slate quarries of Buckingham are making extraordinary large shipments of the celebrated Buckingham slate, said to be the best and most durable roofing material in the world.

The returns are not in yet, but as far as reported the Virginia truckers down in the Tidewater regions have had an exceptionally profitable year, that shipments of vegetables and small fruits being the largest for several years past.

The new addition to the Riverside and Dan River cotton mills in Danville will be completed by the middle of September. The addition will have eleven and a half acres of floor space, which will make the floor space of the entire plant exactly fifty-six acres.

South Boston has not yet gotten the new union depot it has been calling for. One trouble seems to be that the people are not fully agreed or altogether harmonious as to the proper location of the proposed depot.

CHARLESTON'S NEWEST INDUSTRY.

Charleston, West Va., July 26.—The Sparks Drilling Jar Co., recently organized, is rapidly pushing its factory to completion, and will begin manufacturing operations within a few weeks. The buildings erected are of brick, and consist of a machine shop 50x90 feet and a forging shop 50x50, each being built with a special eye to enlarge-ment. In the machine shop are lathes, drilling press and shaper and other finishing appliances. In the forging department are two sand-bottom furnaces, steam hammer and other smaller appliances. The fan used in forging is motor driven, and the steam for the hammer comes from a forty-horse-power boiler in the boiler-house adjoining. The power for the machine shop is from two to fifteen-horse-power Westinghouse motors, which will get their current from the Kanawha Water Power and Light Co.

The drilling jar which will be manufactured by this company is the Sparks patent, which is made without welding, and for which the claim is made that it is much more durable than the jars now in use. Its promoters believe it will have a distinct influence upon the drilling of oil wells by reason of the fact that it will largely eliminate "fishing" jobs, the costly and terrifying attendants of all deep-drilling operations. The capital stock of the company is \$40,000, all paid up.

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VIEWS AND NEAR VIEWS

(Continued From First Page.)

Virginia is the ideal location for the plant. Richmond, Norfolk or Newport News ought to have it. It is not too early for the Chambers of Commerce of these towns to get busy.

To Keep Good Roads Good.
The following by H. O. Lynn, of Orange, contains a hint that is a hint, and one that it seems to me could well be acted upon. Mr. Lynn writes:

Permit me to express to a few thoughts which have presented themselves to my mind, and which I have not seen advocated by any other good road enthusiast relative to keeping our highways in good condition. At this time the State is assisting the various counties in the building of both gravel and macadam roads. This is done under the supervision of the State Highway Commissioner. But, unfortunately, when the great majority of these roads are completed, the supervisors seem to think that the job is at an end, and in the majority of instances no provision is made in the bond issues for the upkeep of these expensive highways. This mistake if followed in the course of time bound to result in many horrible roads, when once the crust is broken. The position of supervisor is at this time one of the poorest paid jobs, as well as thankless in the State, and they, though securing the best man obtainable for road work, yet in many instances appoint men for this job who know absolutely nothing of road building or grading. It is along this line that I want to get in my suggestion.

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To what better purpose could they be put than to give these two years of service to practical road building? Each senatorial district has the privilege of appointing one young man per year to the Virginia Military Institute if I am not mistaken, as well as students at large. The course is a four-year one, and the districts will average about four counties. Consequently, in the course of time, there would be about one graduate engineer from the Virginia Military Institute to each county in the State. In addition to their engineering knowledge, they also have military training of the highest order—a thing which qualifies them to handle men. Now then, instead of the counties spending the greater portion of their money under the supervision of thoroughly incompetent men, honest though they may be, yet, who, from a lack of thorough knowledge of road building, are virtually throwing the people's money away year after year, why not have one of these graduates to supervise and oversee the building of our roads, and make him directly responsible to the Board of Supervisors, who then would know when they made out vouchers for road work that the money had been spent to the best advantage. These men would be capable of passing on all bridge work and its value, whereas, in the great majority of instances, they are completely at the mercy of the various bridge companies, who in many instances are outsiders and who are working the counties for all they are worth. No work of importance should be done on any highway unless it is approved by the State engineer, and the approval of the Board of Supervisors.

I trust if these ideas dovetail with yours that you will give expression of them through the columns of your paper, for to me, good roads mean more to the people than any other thing within our borders, barring education and religion.

A Homely Hint.
A backward philosopher who has evidently had some time to give thought to a lot of observation in the cities condenses a great deal of wisdom and common sense in the following paragraph in the Merchants' Journal:

"You may not have much money, but there are several things that you can do without money that help a lot. Water is cheap, and you can keep clean for one thing, and you can keep your feet clean, and that will help you considerably also. You can be polite and obliging, and you will find that most everybody will appreciate that. And all these things will help you get a job if you haven't one, and to keep a job if you have it."

Baseball as an Asset.
The Newport News Press thinks baseball pays the shipbuilding town in commercial ways.

"Newport News has received more advertisement from its baseball team this year than it could have received from any other source. The crowds turned out to the games have attracted the attention of the Newport News, and have been the subject of newspaper articles far and wide. That the city is supporting a losing ball club shows that its people are patriotic and progressive, and after all, that is the greatest thing that a city can show."

The Southern Tobacco Journal offers this timely hint:

"We may not know what we are talking about, but we think we do, when we suggest that farmers in the bright belts should pay more attention to the grading of their tobacco. We believe they would get more money for it, after paying for the work of grading. In fact, we know it."

Secretary of State Bryan has canceled several lecture engagements at the Newport News, and Bill Eades, of the Virginian News, suggests as an industrial proposition, that he can find several idle Virginians who might be induced to take the job of Mr. Bryan's hands at the same rate per.

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AGENTS TELLING OF DEMONSTRATION

(Continued From First Page.)

Va., and the work commenced February 20, 1912.

The work being new, I thought it best to commence with the boys, and decided to hold a corn club and school last fall, for the school children who would take part in it or make an exhibit. We solicited in cash and prizes over \$300; we also visited the schools in our county, trying to interest the young people. We enrolled about fifty corn club boys, although some of them gave up the work. Eighteen made reports at fair, and twenty-six remained in the work.

The prospect is brighter this year. We have ten new boys in the corn club, and the boys seem more interested this year than last as they know more about the work. Their reports were very good for the first year. Our prospect for the school fair this year is good, our prize list much better, and we have more cash prizes. We have also arranged to give each boy time a national gold club pin.

We have not as many demonstrators among our farmers as I would like. Most of our alfalfa men are very well pleased, although we had a very bad season for the first crop. We are now having rains with seasonable temperature, which I think will add very much to the crop. We hope to be able to make a fairly good report from our county this fall.

In Montgomery County.
C. H. Varugh, Jr., who, together with other duties holds in Montgomery demonstration work in Montgomery County, writes:

Relative to information regarding demonstration work in Montgomery County, I will say this is the initial year of the farmer's co-operative demonstration work in this county, and only three days a week are devoted to it, as the demonstration agent has other duties in connection with the College of Agriculture at Blacksburg.

There are forty-two boys in the Montgomery County Boys' Corn Club, and each and every boy in the club is doing creditable work. The season started off very unfavorably in this part of the State, and it is encouraging to see how manfully these boys have stuck to their work.

The writer has fifty men in his men's corn club, representing possibly one-half of the corn. These men also are doing creditable work in the best methods of corn culture, namely, thorough preparation of the soil, the judicious use of commercial fertilizers, the rotation of crops, using some legume as a green manure, and selection of pure-bred seed corn, and, lastly, the frequent, shallow cultivation of their crop—aiming to conserve all the times soil moisture.

It is often very hard to get some farmers to take up demonstration work. I remember particularly one incident when I called on a farmer and sought to get him in my men's corn club. There is nothing doing at all. He absolutely refused to be interested, and I was beginning to think that this man was lost to me forever.

Fortunately, I got his neighbor across the road interested, and when the farmer questioned saw the interest his neighbor was taking in the work, he, too, came and said: "Tell me now just what you told that fellow across the road to do to his corn patch, and I'll be hanged if I don't get in and show him how to raise corn." That same man is now one of my best demonstrators.

These little incidents are always happening in our work, and they go a long way towards helping us in the demonstration work.

There will be seeded in Montgomery County, this coming August, between fifty and 100 acres of mixed grasses. Prior to this time fifty acres of alfalfa and mixed grasses, seeded at this time of the year, is the best seed to be had.

The demonstration agent, with the aid of the college officials and public spirited citizens, is promoting the Blacksburg fair, to be held in Blacksburg late in October. The prospects for a creditable exhibition are encouraging, and it is the hope of every one connected with this fair to make it the best of its kind in Southwest Virginia.

I take great pleasure, for the opportunity you have given me, to let the people of the State know just what we are doing, what we are going to do, and what we hope to do in Montgomery County.

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